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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Was this question discussed at the State Ministers' Conference and, if so, what conclusions were arrived at?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It was once discussed at the State Ministers' Conference at Ranchi. Then it was deferred. It was again discussed at Bangalore. No definite decisions were taken.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Why was not this proposition considered at the State level?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Personally I am against this. But I do not know whether the hon. Member is desirous of having this.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know, Sir, if the rules permit a private Member to bring in a Bill to levy a health cess, and if the hon. Member were to introduce such a Bill, whether the Government would accept it?

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : I have no intention of introducing such a Bill.

Pension to Secondary Grade Teachers.

* 57 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that secondary grade teachers of over 30 years' service, who retired after 1st April 1955, have not been considered eligible for pension; and

(*b*) if so, the reason therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Finance) : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, as I have got information that in many cases teachers are denied pension at the departmental level, will the Government kindly see that such cases are scrutinised under rule 10 (*b*) of the pension rules and are awarded pension?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : This order about pensions to teachers came into effect from 1st April 1955. Under this order, all teachers who have put in 30 years' service and retired at 55 years or 60 years of age, according as they are local body teachers or aided school teachers, are entitled to pension. But if there had been break of service on account of resignation, then they will not be entitled to pension. This is the position. Only in such circumstances pension would have been denied to them. But if the hon. Member would bring to the notice of the Government specific cases, they would be looked into.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : In view of the fact that in the case of most of the aided school teachers, the termination of service would be only by resignation on account of the attitude of the management, will the Government kindly see that they revise rule 10 (*b*) so that any teacher, irrespective of the break of service, may get pension, if he had put in the required service?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That is a different proposal, about which the hon. Member may put a separate question. Under the prevailing rules, if there had been break of service on account of resignation, they will not be entitled to pension.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : We have received a communication that the matter is under consideration.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, is it not a fact that teachers who retired after 1st April 1955 are denied pension because they completed their 55th year in the case of district board schools or 60th year in the case of the aided high schools before 1st April 1955?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That was not so, Sir. If they had retired after 1st April 1955, they might have been denied pension because there had been break of service on account of resignation. Now the hon. Member Sri Srinivasavaradan has given the information that the Government are considering this question also.

Highways and Irrigation Departments.

* 58 *Q.*—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to integrate the Highways and Irrigation Departments with the Public Works Department; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor and the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) It has been suggested that a good deal of duplicate touring by officers and also the number of officers employed for different types of work, e.g., roads, buildings, irrigation, etc., can be reduced by integration of the Highways Department with Public Works Department. The details in this regard are being worked out.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : இது விஷயமாக எப்பொழுது முடிவு எடுக்கப்படும், எப்பொழுது அந்த முடிவு அமுலுக்கு வரும் என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : இப்பொழுது பரிசீலனை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். எப்பொழுது இது அமுலுக்கு வரும் என்று இப்பொழுது சொல்ல முடியாது.